

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A purified protein comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) amino acids 1 to 281 of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (b) amino acids 39 to 281 of SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (c) an amino acid sequence encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 97448.
2. The purified protein of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide sequence is (a).
3. The purified protein of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide sequence is (b).
4. The purified protein of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide sequence is (c).
5. The purified protein of claim 1, which comprises a heterologous polypeptide sequence.
6. A composition comprising the purified protein of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
7. A purified protein comprising a polypeptide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) amino acids 1 to 281 of SEQ ID NO:2, except for 1 to 5 conservative amino acid substitutions;
 - (b) amino acids 1 to 281 of SEQ ID NO:2, except for 5 to 10 conservative amino acid substitutions;
 - (c) amino acids 39 to 281 of SEQ ID NO:2, except for 1 to 5 conservative amino acid substitutions; and
 - (d) amino acids 39 to 281 of SEQ ID NO:2, except for 5 to 10 conservative amino acid substitutions.
8. The purified protein of claim 7, wherein said polypeptide sequence is (a).

9. The purified protein of claim 7, wherein said polypeptide sequence is (b).
10. The purified protein of claim 7, wherein said polypeptide sequence is (c).
11. The purified protein of claim 7, wherein said polypeptide sequence is (d).
12. The purified protein of claim 7, which comprises a heterologous polypeptide sequence.
13. A composition comprising the purified protein of claim 7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
14. A purified protein which binds to an antibody specific to a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
15. A purified protein comprising a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide which hybridizes to the human cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 97448, at 65° C in a hybridization buffer consisting of 7% SDS, 0.5 M NaPO4 (pH 7.4), followed by washing in 0.5 X SSC and 0.1% SDS at 60° C; wherein said polypeptide has a biological activity selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) binding an antibody specific to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (b) inducing apoptosis of a cell line derived from pathologic tissue; and
 - (c) inducing apoptosis of T cells.